(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested for financial assistance/for allocation of funds for relief during earthquake situation in several districts of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and its present status;

(c) the funds allocated and amount spent for above said work as on date; and

(d) the status of the same and reasons for delay, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Government of Gujarat had requested for allocation of funds for earthquake relief during 2001 and 2002.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 500 crore was provided in 2000-01 and Rs. 967.37 crore in 2001-02 for immediate relief as per norms of National Calamity Contingency Fund and an amount of Rs. 750 crore as non-plan grant for earthquake relief in 2001-02. The State Government has reported full utilization of the same.

Reopening of Ashok Paper Mill

2416. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Ashok Paper Mills at Jogighopa in Assam;

(b) whether Government has any proposal for opening of the said mill;

(c) whether Government will concede to the promise of the Assam Accord, 1985; and

(d) if so, how and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) The production operations of Ashok Paper Mill are suspended at present. It was decided by the Government to conduct Techno-Economic Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report for revival of Ashok Paper Mill. Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited (HPC) invited bid for engaging a consultant for preparation of Techno Economic Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report for revival of Ashok Parer Mill. Accordingly, M/s. Sandwell Consultancy Engineers Private Limited, Mumbai has been engaged on 10.09.2008 and their report is expected in four months.

(c) and (d) The Government of India is a signatory to the Assam Accord. The revival process of Ashok Paper Mill has already been initiated.

Pay revision for employees of PSU oil companies

2417. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the pay revision of Public Sector Oil Companies' employees in Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) etc., is over-due as their employees' organizations have since long submitted their demands;

(b) whether Government has so far examined their demands and also taken into consideration recommendations made by the Pay Commission set up in respect of such Public Sector Undertakings; and

(c) if so, whether Government has started any negotiations with employee's organizations in this regard who are demanding long term settlement for five years before diwali this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) Guidelines for 7th Round of Wage negotiations, which fall due on general basis from 01.01.2007, in respect of unionised workmen of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) were issued*vide* DPE OMs No. 2(7)-06-DPE (WC) dated 09.11.2006 and 01.05.2008. Government after careful consideration of the report of the 2nd Pay Revision Committee, has issued guidelines on 26.11.2008 for pay revision of executives and non-unionized supervisors of CPSEs *w.e.f.* 01.01.2007. These guidelines are applicable to all CPSEs including Oil Sector CPSEs.

(c) Boards of respective CPSEs are empowered to revise the pay of workmen based on negotiations with the unions. Boards have also been empowered to revise pay of non-unionized supervisors.

Surplus fund of PSEs

2418. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) have to compulsorily deposit 60 per cent of their cash surplus in Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, whether all the PSEs have followed the instruction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) to (c) Boards of concerned CPSEs take a decision for deployment of surplus funds as per guidelines issued by the Government from time to time. In April, 2008, instructions were issued to CPSEs advising them, *inter-alia*, that at least to the extent of 60% of available surplus funds should be placed with Public Sector Banks (PSBs). These instructions were reiterated in August, 2008 and in October, 2008.

Appointment of independent directors in PSUs

2419. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received suggestion to review the policies about appointment of independent directors in Public Sector Units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?